

## Carolyn Maloney

1948–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

**FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1992**, Carolyn Maloney represents a section of New York City once known as the “Silk Stocking District,” which encompasses much of the East Side of Manhattan and parts of Queens. A leading advocate for women’s issues both in America and abroad, Congresswoman Maloney also has championed homeland security programs in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City.

Carolyn Boshier was born on February 19, 1948, to R.G. and Christine Boshier in Greensboro, North Carolina. She earned a B.A. from Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1968. In 1970, she traveled to New York City and decided to stay. She worked as a public school teacher and then as a community affairs coordinator for the New York board of education’s welfare education program. Carolyn Boshier married Clifton Maloney, and the couple raised two daughters, Christina and Virginia.

Carolyn Maloney’s political career began in 1977 when she became convinced she could effect more change in education through political processes. For five years in the New York assembly in Albany, she served as a legislative aide and analyst, and then as senior aide for the senate minority leader. In 1982, Maloney made her first bid for elective office, defeating an incumbent to win a seat on the New York city council. She served on the city council for a decade, implementing programs to eliminate waste and fraud in government and authoring the landmark New York City Campaign Finance Act.<sup>1</sup>

In 1992, Maloney challenged a seven-term incumbent, GOP Representative Bill Green, for a seat in the U.S. House. Maloney had two advantages. First, reapportionment after the 1990 Census redrew the “Silk Stocking” district’s boundaries, bringing in more registered Democrats. Second, a large portion of the congressional district overlapped with Maloney’s city council district, providing her with wide name recognition. She narrowly edged out Green, 50 to 48 percent. In her subsequent six re-election campaigns, however, she has won handily. In 2004, Maloney was re-elected to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 81 percent of the vote.<sup>2</sup>

In her first term, Maloney received assignments on two committees: Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (now named Financial Services) and Government Operations (now Government Reform). She has remained on both committees throughout her House career and holds the Ranking Member post on the Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Maloney also earned a seat on the Joint Economic Committee, where she still serves.

Maloney's legislative interests ranged from national issues to local matters important to her constituents. Since the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, Maloney has focused on homeland security issues and economic recovery programs for Manhattan. She has commissioned several federal studies on the city's economic losses and has been persistent in her efforts to ensure that New York does in fact receive the \$20 billion in recovery aid promised to the city by the George W. Bush administration. Maloney also has sought to enhance the resources of first responders, particularly in those places such as New York City that terrorists are most likely to target.<sup>3</sup>

From her seat on the Financial Services Committee, Representative Maloney also has helped pass legislation to modernize financial laws and to improve consumer protections. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she served as a conferee on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Bill. Maloney also was the lead Democrat on a bill to increase funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission, enhancing its regulatory function. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she authored legislation to reduce securities transaction fees by \$14 billion over a 10-year period.

A great deal of Maloney's legislative work has dealt with issues affecting women. As past Democratic Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, Representative Maloney has been an advocate for women's equality in health care, reproductive rights, and pay. In 2002 and 2003, she coauthored a report showing that a 20 percent wage gap favoring men has persisted since the early 1980s. In every Congress since 1997, Representative Maloney has introduced the Equal Rights Amendment. A champion for efforts to end violence against women, in 2001, Maloney was the author of the original "Debbie Smith Act," legislation to end the backlog of unprocessed rape kits. This bill was signed into law as part of the "Justice for All Act." Maloney also was a leading cosponsor of the "End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act," which was included in comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation signed into law in 2006.<sup>4</sup> Since 2002, she has been a vocal proponent of restoring the contribution of the United States to the United Nations Population Fund for international family planning programs.

#### FOR FURTHER READING

*Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress*, "Carolyn Maloney," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

#### NOTES

- 1 *Current Biography*, 2001 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 2001): 34–38.
- 2 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 3 "Official Biography of Carolyn Maloney," <http://www.house.gov/maloney/bio.html> (accessed 13 February 2003).
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess. (28 June 1994): 5178.